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CURRENT LEGAL PERIODICALS AND BOOK REVIEWS.

BRIEF-MAKING AND THE USE OF LAW BOOKS. By WILLIAM M. LILE, Dean of the University of Virginia School of Law; HENRY S. REDFIELD, Professor of Law, Columbia University; EUGENE WAMBAUGH, Professor of Law in Harvard University; ALFRED F. MASON, Editor of the *American Law School Review*; and JAMES E. WHEELER, Lecturer in Yale University Law School. Edited by NATHAN ABBOTT, Dean of the Leland Stanford Jr. University School of Law. Pp. viii+472. St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing Co. 1906.

Much has been said and many complaints have been made concerning the failure of law schools to offer courses of instruction fitting their graduates for the practical work of the office and court-room, and it has been the object of the authors in writing this book to furnish the law student and also the young lawyer with the means of correcting this deficiency and of completing a legal education which is to a certain extent unfinished and inadequate. The result of their efforts is a book of considerable value not only as a text-book but also as a book of reference; and, as a short and practical work on brief-making and the use of law books it admirably fills the purpose for which it is intended.

The book itself is divided into four parts and an appendix. Part I, by Henry S. Redfield, is a short paper of 65 pages, devoted to "the brief on appeal," and deals with the nature, contents, and preparation of a brief. A sample brief and citations of numerous cases covering most of the states of the United States complete the article. Part II, 50 pages, by Eugene Wambaugh treats of the use of decisions and statutes, and while the principles and directions contained therein are for the most part elementary, they are nevertheless a necessary part of every course of legal instruction. Primary and secondary authorities are compared and rules are given as to the method of using all kinds of authorities in brief-making. The article also contains an analysis of decisions in general, giving the relative value of doctrine and dictum and distinguishing between the decision and the opinion and also between decisions and statutes. The section on statutes contains only the points of practical importance to the brief-maker. Part III, 54 pages, by Alfred F. Mason,, con-

cerns American law publications. Books of primary and secondary authority are very fully discussed, Federal and State Reports are considered, and an explanation is given of the National Reporter System and the states embraced in each Reporter. In addition there is a list of Federal Reports and of the reports of the various states, giving the manner of designating the different volumes.

In Part IV, 164 pages, by James E. Wheeler, the problem of how to find the law is taken up and well covered. The main heads of the subject are defined and for purposes of reference are alphabetically and categorically arranged, and some clear directions and practical hints are given as to the proper way in which to look up the law. Following Part IV is an appendix of 123 pages of alphabetically-arranged abbreviations of law publications, containing the abbreviations of English and American reports and decisions and of the leading case books.

J. K. F.

A MANUAL RELATING TO SPECIAL VERDICTS AND SPECIAL FINDINGS BY JURIES. Based on the decisions of all the states. By GEORGE B. CLEMENTSON, of the Wisconsin Bar. St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing Co. 1905.

The efficiency of jury trials as a means of dispensing public justice has been called into question so much within recent years by both the Bench and Bar that even members of the legal profession occupying places high in the nation, have gone so far as to regard the jury as something which has lost its usefulness, a veritable fetich, which maintains its position only because of the services it has rendered in the past.

However extreme this may appear to the American bar at large, it seems to be generally accepted that there are grave flaws in the modern jury system which will require the best efforts of the profession in any attempt to remedy them.

The author of the above work has, in his volume of some three hundred odd pages, offered, perhaps for the first time in this country, a very thorough treatise upon the subject of Special Verdicts and Special Findings, which old as they are in Common Law practice, are growing more and more in favor as a means of effecting greater precision and more equitable results than can be attained by the ordinary or "general" verdict.

Beginning with the origin and history of Special Verdicts and Special Findings, he defines both of them carefully,